

CLAIMS:

1. Method of recording information in units on a record carrier having a track for consecutively recording the information units at addressable locations, the information being represented in the track by series of marks of different runlengths between a minimum runlength and a maximum runlength and synchronizing patterns of marks, which patterns do not occur in the series of marks and comprise at least one long mark of at least the maximum runlength, said method comprising:

(a) encoding at least one information unit into a modulated signal comprising signal elements corresponding to said marks,

(b) scanning said track up to a link position before a selected one of said addressable locations, and

(c) recording the modulated signal from the link position, characterized in that

(d) the modulated signal is provided at the begin and/or at the end with a link signal element corresponding to a link mark of at most the minimum runlength.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the link signal element corresponds to a mark shorter than the minimum runlength.

3. Device for recording information in units on a record carrier (11) having a track (9) for consecutively recording the information units at addressable locations, the information being represented in the track (9) by series of marks of different runlengths between a minimum runlength and a maximum runlength and synchronizing patterns (30) of marks, which patterns do not occur in the series of marks and comprise at least one long mark (81) of at least the maximum runlength, said device comprising encoding means (28,29) for encoding at least one information unit into a modulated signal comprising signal elements corresponding to said marks, and recording means (20,21,22,25) for scanning said track up to a link position before a selected one of said addressable locations and recording the modulated signal from the link position, characterized in that the encoding means (28,29) are arranged for providing the modulated signal at the begin

and/or at the end with a link signal element corresponding to a link mark (84) of at most the minimum runlength.

4. Device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said runlengths are expressed in steps of a channel bit, and the encoding means (28,29) are arranged for providing the link signal element corresponding to a link mark (84) one channel bit shorter than the minimum runlength.

Device as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein the encoding means comprise synchronizing means (29) for providing said at least one long mark (81) in the synchronizing pattern (30) at a runlength longer than the sum of the maximum runlength and the runlength of the link mark (84).

6. Device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the encoding means (28,29) comprise synchronizing means (29) for providing the synchronizing pattern (30) having said at least one long mark (81) followed by a short mark (82) of a runlength shorter than the maximum runlength, and the encoding means (28,29) are arranged for providing a second link signal element after the link signal element at the begin of the modulated signal, the second link signal element corresponding to a mark (85) differing from the short mark (82).

7. Device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the encoding means (28,29) comprise means (28) for variably selecting one out of a set of fixed linking sequences that each start with the link signal element followed by further signal elements for recording marks up to the first synchronizing pattern, substantially half of the linking sequences of the set having an odd number of mark boundaries.

8. Device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the linking sequences have a fixed length of 8 channel bits, and the set of fixed linking sequences comprises 10100000 and 10100100, or 10010000 and 10010010, each 1 indicating a mark boundary.

9. Device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the device comprises means (27) for processing or compressing digital or analog input signals such as audio and/or video to units of information.